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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fourth session
2-27 June 2014
Agenda item 3 (b)
Programme questions

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

Review of part two: biennial programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat provides herewith additional information on the review of the proposed part two: biennial programme plan, of the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 by relevant sectoral, functional and regional bodies for programmes 1, 16 and 18.

2. Annex I provides an overview of action taken by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The proposed modifications or comments on the biennial programme plan are provided in annexes II and III. The relevant documents, as available, can be provided to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as necessary.

Please recycle

Annex I

Overview of action taken on the review of part two: biennial programme plan, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 by relevant intergovernmental bodies

Programme and subprogramme	*Sectoral, functional or regional body*	*Document*	*Comments*
1. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	Committee on Conferences	Letter dated 20 May 2014 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	At its 529th meeting, held on 23 April 2014, the Committee, in accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, reviewed the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 1. The Committee proposed modifications for incorporation, which are contained in annex II. The Committee is aware of the important role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary body of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination. In its capacity as the oversight body for programme 1, the Committee on Conferences is therefore proposing its input for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.
16. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives	E/ESCAP/DEC/70/3	The Commission, during phase I of its seventieth session, held on 23 May 2014, reviewed and endorsed programme 16, with the proposed modifications contained in annex III.
18. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	—	The proposed biennial programme plan was submitted to the Economic Commission at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014. The Commission proposed no changes.

Annex II

Proposed revisions to the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, as proposed by the Committee on Conferences

The following modifications are proposed for incorporation into programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 1.3

Replace the existing text with "Guided by Assembly resolutions 57/300 and 68/251, as well as the provisions relevant to conference services of the Assembly's resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, on multilingualism, on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto and on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, the strategic framework under the programme seeks to make further progress in integrated global management in order to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner simultaneously in all official languages, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve further synergies and full-system benefits across the integrated conference-servicing operations in the four duty stations".

Paragraph 1.5

Replace the words "provide better quality assurance of the expanded contractual translation services" with the words "provide better quality assurance of the translation services, including contractual services".

Paragraph 1.6

Replace the existing text with "An effort will be made to build a larger and more balanced pool of qualified language staff across languages and duty stations by encouraging promising candidates to apply for open positions through various means, including the revamped competitive language examination process, the Department's Universities Outreach Programme and internships and traineeships, in compliance with United Nations recruitment standards regarding language staff. The programme will continue to emphasize the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into its subprogrammes".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), delete the word "written".

In indicator (b), replace the existing text with "100 per cent compliance with the submission deadline for parliamentary documentation and efficient and effective interdepartmental support to the intergovernmental bodies, with equal treatment given to all official languages".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.7 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Assistance to representatives of Member States on all matters relating to the effective scheduling and conduct of meetings, including the provision of an advance programme of work and the timely issuance of documentation and communications in all official languages".

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (a), "Improved implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services for the United Nations system".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.8 (b) (i)

Replace the existing text with "Ensuring the timely availability, in all official languages, of high-quality documentation through regular consultations and active dialogue with document submitters and committee secretariats in order to assist them in meeting the submission standards".

Paragraph 1.8 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraph 1.8 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation, précis-writing and text-processing of parliamentary documentation and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation, précis-writing and text-processing services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (c), "Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, verbatim reporting, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services, in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, verbatim reporting, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meeting services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator (c), "Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

B. Conference management, Geneva

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (a) "Improved implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services for the United Nations system".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.11 (b) (i)

Replace the existing text with "Ensuring the timely availability, in all official languages, of high-quality documentation through regular consultations and active

dialogue with document submitters and committee secretariats in order to assist them in meeting the submission standards".

Paragraph 1.11 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraph 1.11 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation and text-processing of parliamentary documentation and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation and text-processing services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (c), "Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services, in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (b), "Increased availability of official documents in an accessible format".

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (b), "Increased number of users of the e-subscription system".

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (c), "Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

C. Conference management, Vienna
D. Conference management, Nairobi

The following proposed amendments relate to both sections C and D.

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (a), "Improved implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services for the United Nations system".

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (b), "Increased percentage of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States provided with interpretation services as available".

Strategy

Paragraphs 1.14 (c) and 1.17 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraphs 1.14 (d) and 1.17 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation and text-processing of parliamentary documentation

and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation and text-processing services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (c), "Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, desktop publishing, publishing and meetings services, in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, desktop publishing, publishing and meetings services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (b), "Increased availability of official documents in an accessible format".

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (b), "Increased number of users of the e-subscription system".

Include an additional indicator for accomplishment (c), "Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Annex III

Proposed revisions to the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

The following modifications are proposed for incorporation into programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

Subprogramme 5
Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Objective of the Organization

Add a comma after the words "space applications" and replace the words "disaster risk reduction strategies and management" with the words "disaster risk reduction and management strategies".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), add a comma after the words "space applications" and replace "disaster risk reduction strategies and management" with the words "disaster risk reduction and management strategies".

Subprogramme 6
Social development

Strategy

Paragraph 16.35

At the end of the last sentence, insert ", which was adopted by a vote".